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Vision 2020 Standing Committee 01/14/2004

ARLINGTON VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2004 MEETING

Attendance: Jane Howard, Joey Glushko, Gene Benson, Gail Dubois, Andrew Fischer, Elizabeth Karpati, Sherry Miller, Angela Olszewski, Ed Starr, Patricia Watson.

- The minutes of the December 8, 2003 meeting were accepted as presented.
- Jane announced the Martin Luther King Day program at Trinity Baptist Church.
- Leslie Mayer was unanimously approved as third co-chair of the Standing Committee.

Census Insert:

- The insert has been printed (samples were distributed) but not yet mailed. The packager insists it weighs more than last year (although it has the same number of pages) and will need \$3500 extra postage.
- More copies had to be printed because the packager is working from a list which is apparently not up-to-date. The list is required by the state and compiled by the Registrar of Voters, but it is unclear how names are removed from it: after three years of not voting or of not returning the census form. Gail will check the state law on this; Joey will check the Town Clerk's office.
- There was a brief item about the survey in the *Advocate* but another reminder is needed; Andrew will draft one.
- Processing the survey returns: Elizabeth will do the volunteer sign-up list again; Andrew and Elizabeth will help with processing the questionnaires. Jane will check with Heidi whether anything could be scanned.

Task group reports:

- Fiscal Resources has been looking for comparison communities and has found a company which produces such data, but only on printouts, not on disk. The first copy costs \$1,000, additional copies \$100 or \$50. The Finance Committee voted to get the first copy for Arlington, so the Standing Committee voted to get another copy for use by Fiscal Resources and later the Planning Department.
- Diversity: Miriam Stein will step down as chair after 10 years. There are two co-chairs, Ann Mathes and Betty Connors, a Native American; the committee is looking for a third. The committee is working with the School Department to keep the human resources function going without an HR person, and is already planning the next Diversity Month.
- Governance will start reviewing the "Settling In" brochure. Candidates' Night is slated for March 25, using last year's format. Warrant Review will have the same format and moderator (Kevin Greeley) as last year, but the date is yet to be set – it needs to be between the election (April 3) and the start of Town Meeting (April 26).
- Finance Committee wants to do more outreach with information on how the budget is put together.
- Insurance has about 9 people attending meetings and has two work groups: one on wellness which is listing the programs available in Arlington, and one on school data, which is compiling numbers on students with various problems like diabetes or obesity.
- Environment: *Spy Pond*: (1) The pond did not need weed treatment last year but will need it this year (FY 2005) to avoid the need for costlier treatment later. It was too late to get it into the DPW maintenance budget for FY 2005, so the Standing C. approved submitting a warrant article asking for \$15,000. (2) The Spy Pond C. will do a fertilizer flyer again this spring. (3) The alum and aeration treatments planned under the state grant will have to be done as separate projects, requiring an extension of the grant, which is ok. (4) Arlington and Belmont got a joint "319" grant to treat stormwater (mainly to remove sand) before it enters the Highway Dept's big drain under Rt. 2. This will give Arlington more leverage to get the Highway Dept. to clean up the sandbar it is creating. *Reservoir*: The committee hopes to get partial plans from John Sanchez and the consultant at its next meeting. A public meeting should be held once the plans are advanced enough. *Sustainable Arlington* is working on the action plan and will try to meet with the new Town Manager. The warrant article on fuel-efficient vehicles has been largely ignored and needs follow-up. The PTBC is not requiring the LEED silver standard for the Dallin plans; the committee wants to work with the School Committee and get it to lobby for the silver standard. Two committee members plan to attend the public meeting on the four proposals for Symmes.